

Melcagris g. mexicana is related to the southern or Florida form and is similar to it in the coloration of the primary and secondary quills, but is widely separated from both forms (*M. gallopavo* and *M. g. osceola*) in the lighter coloration of the tips of the tail-feathers and the color of the tips of the tail-coverts, which in this form is buffy whitish.

A NEW SUBSPECIES OF THE SOLITARY SAND-PIPER.

BY WILLIAM BREWSTER.

Totanus solitarius cinnamomeus, subsp. nov. CINNAMON SOLITARY SANDPIPER.

SUBSPECIFIC CHARACTERS (*young in autumn plumage*): Similar to *T. solitarius*, but larger, the wings grayer, the light spots on the back, scapulars, and wing-coverts brownish cinnamon instead of white or buffy whitish; the sides of the head with more whitish, especially on the lores. No well-defined loreal stripe.

Male juv., autumnal plumage (No. 17,735, San José del Cabo, Aug. 30, 1887). Above grayish brown, the back, scapulars, and wing-coverts tinged with olive and coarsely spotted with brownish cinnamon, the nape with fine, obscure streaks of grayish; sides of neck rather more broadly and plainly striped; sides of head, including most of the lores, white, finely spotted with dusky; an immaculate white space extending from above the eye forward nearly to the forehead; a short dusky space at the base of the bill; under parts white, the breast, jugulum and sides of neck and body, but not the flanks, distinctly streaked with grayish brown; the under tail-coverts with conspicuous bars of dark slate; under wing-coverts and axillars white, thickly and coarsely barred with dark slate; under primary-coverts and primaries dark pearl-gray; the outer primary finely mottled with ashy white along the border of its inner web for a distance of about an inch beyond the tips of the under primary-coverts. Rump, upper tail-coverts and middle pair of tail-feathers colored like the back, but with the outer tail-coverts white with dark slaty bars, the middle tail-feathers notched along the edges of both webs with rusty white. All the other tail-feathers white, more or less tinged with rusty near their tips, and with wide bars of dark slate, most numerous on the outer webs.

In respect to the characters mentioned in the above diagnosis, seven specimens collected by Mr. Frazer in Lower California differ very constantly from twelve examples in corresponding

plumage from various parts of the eastern United States. In the latter the spots on the back, scapulars and wing-coverts are usually smaller and invariably much lighter, varying from ashy white to very pale buffy. The Eastern birds also have the shoulders and outer edges of the wings above blacker, and the dusky on the sides of the head usually in excess of the white ground color. They also have a well-marked dark loreal stripe which is either wholly wanting or but imperfectly indicated in the Lower California bird. The mottling on the breast of the latter seems to be also darker, the streaks more distinct. While not constantly diagnostic, the mottling on the inner web of the first primary, mentioned in the description of the type, is an excellent *average* character. I have seen it exhibited in only one example of true *solitarius* while in *cinnamomeus* it is generally present.

The difference in size is shown by the following table of measurements (in inches).

Catd. No.	Sex	Locality	Date	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Culmen from feathers	
3,840	♂	Maine	Sept. 6, 1874	5.19	2.18	1.10	1.06	Coll. W. Brewster.
11,078	♂	"	Oct. 22, 1886	4.92	2.10	1.15	1.03	" " "
10,170	♂	Mass.	Aug. 29, 1888	5.07	2.06	1.18	1.17	" " "
12,728	♂	New York	Sept. 22, 1886	4.90	2.05	1.00	1.14	" " "
12,731	♂	"	Sept. 28, 1886	5.04	2.23	1.15	1.15	" " "
10,856	♀	New Brunswick	Sept. 15, 1885	5.07	2.14	1.15	1.13	" " "
10,035	♀	Maine	Oct. 12, 1885	5.10	2.28	1.16	1.12	" " "
3,843	♂	Mass.	Aug. 30, 1875	5.07	2.18	1.18	1.18	" " "
12,729	♀	New York	Sept. 22, 1886	5.13	2.16	1.15	1.08	" " "
6,127	♀	Ft. Snelling, Minn.	Aug. 24, 1888	4.83	2.14	1.30	1.17	*Dr. E. A. Mearns.
6,590	♂	"	May 6, 1889	5.00	2.18	1.20	1.20	" " "
6,591	♂	"	"	5.06	2.22	1.17	1.20	" " "
6,326	♂	"	Aug. 24, 1888	5.04	2.20	1.25	1.20	" " "
17,731	♂	Lower Cal.	Aug. 25, 1887	5.36	2.25	1.26	1.30	Coll. W. Brewster.
17,735	♀	"	" 30, "	5.37	2.37	1.23	1.19	" " "
17,736	♀	"	" 31, "	5.25	2.18	1.25	1.15	" " "
17,737	♀	"	" " "	5.18	2.22	1.22	1.22	" " "
17,738	♀	"	Sept. 2, "	5.10	2.00	1.23	1.16	" " "
17,740	♀	"	Aug. 30, "	5.40	2.28	1.24	1.26	" " "
17,741	♀	"	Sept. 2, "	5.49	2.23	1.30	1.25	" " "
4,180	♀	Ft. Verde, Arizona	Aug. 28, 1885	5.00	2.15	1.14	1.17	*Dr. E. A. Mearns.
		"	"	4.90	2.05	1.17	1.08	" " "

*American Museum, N. Y. City.

All the Lower California specimens just mentioned are young birds, but the collection contains a single adult male in autumn plumage (No. 17,739, San José del Cabo, Oct. 28, 1887) which, in every respect, is identical with autumnal adults in my collection from the Eastern States. I see no reason why it may not be regarded as an example of true *solitarius*.

Two specimens from Fort Verde, Arizona, in the collection of Dr. Mearns agree closely with the Lower California birds in the color of the wings and the character of the dorsal spotting, but in other respects they are intermediate between the Lower California and Eastern birds.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Slater's Catalogue of the Tracheophonæ.*—The Tracheophone passerines, as is well-known, are restricted to the warmer parts of the two American continents, being for the most part tropical in their distribution. They comprise the four families Dendrocolaptidæ, Formicariidæ, Conopophagidæ, and Pteroptochidæ, and differ from other Passeres in the peculiar modification of the lower end of the trachea for the production of vocal sounds. They are birds of mostly small size, the largest not much exceeding the stature of a Jay, the average size being that of a small Thrush. They vary greatly in form and habits, and are mostly denizens of the thicket or the forest. Many of the Dendrocolaptidæ resemble the Tree-creepers in form and habits, having stiffened spiny tails and the same manner of life. Other forms of the same family are terrestrial, and are remarkable for the large domed clay nests they construct, from which they derive the name of Oven-birds. The Formicariidæ are likewise very variable in form, some of them being decidedly Shrike-like, while others are more like Thrushes and Warblers, and still others, as regards external form, recall the Pittas of the Old World. The Pteroptochidæ may be compared to gigantic Wrens.

In the present volume 559 species are recognized, of which 271 belong to the Dendrocolaptidæ, 256 to the Formicariidæ, 11 to the Conopophagidæ, and 21 to the Pteroptochidæ. Of these 531 are represented in the British Museum collection, the number of specimens aggregating 4482. Many other species are referred to in foot-notes, which, says the author, "may ultimately turn out to be perfectly valid," only such species as the author has *seen* being, as a rule, admitted!

The style of treatment is the same as in the same author's previous volumes of the series, noticed in former numbers of this journal. The

*Catalogue | of the | Passeriformes, | or | Perching Birds | in the | Collection | of the | British Museum. | — | Tracheophonæ, | or the Families | Dendrocolaptidæ, | Formicariidæ, | Conopophagidæ, and Pteroptochidæ. | By | Philip Lutley Slater. | London: | Printed by order of the Trustees. | 1890.—8vo, pp. xviii X 372, pll. xx. (Volume XV of the 'Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum.')